

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Presently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising:
 - a) a pharmaceutically active amount of erythropoietin;
 - b) a pharmaceutically acceptable pH buffering agent to provide a pH in a range of about pH 6 to about pH 9;
 - c) a tonicity agent in a concentration range of about 0 to about 200 millimolar; and
 - d) sodium carboxymethyl ether cellulose in a concentration range of about 0.5% to about 7% total formula weight, said ~~CMC~~ sodium carboxymethyl ether cellulose having a molecular weight in a range of about 50,000 daltons to about 1,000,000 daltons.
2. (Presently amended) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the erythropoietin is selected from a the group consisting of recombinant human erythropoietin, epoietin alfa, epoietin omega, darbepoetin alfa, and PEG conjugated erythropoietin.
3. (Presently amended) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the pH buffering agent is present in the formulation at a concentration is in the range of about 10 mM to about 30 mM and wherein the pH buffering agent is a sodium phosphate monobasic / sodium phosphate dibasic buffer system.
4. (Presently amended) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the tonicity agent is selected from a the group consisting of NaCl, KCl, and glycine.
5. (Presently amended) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the tonicity agent is NaCl ~~and the NaCl concentration is~~ at a concentration of about 75 mM to about 125 mM.

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6. (Original) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the pH of the formulation is in the range of about 6.5 to about 7.4.

7 – 19. Canceled.